

one end as a cantilever and viewed from a side elevation (see e.g., FIG. 5). A flap that is not self-supporting will tend to drape towards the ground at about 90 degrees from the horizontal.

Page 11, line 31, after "24" please insert --that is-- and at line 32, between "first" and "portion" insert --stationary--:

FIG. 5 illustrates a flexible flap 24 that is deformed by applying a uniform force to the flexible flap. Flexible flap 24 is secured at a first stationary portion 28 to a hold-down surface 46 and has for a second or free portion suspended therefrom as a cantilever beam. Surface 46 desirably is planar, and the flexible flap 24 is preferably secured to that planar surface along the whole width of portion 28. The uniform force includes a plurality of force vectors 47 of the same magnitude, each applied at a direction normal to the curvature of the flexible flap. The resulting deformation curve can be used to define the curvature of a valve seat's seal ridge 30 to provide a flexible flap that exerts a substantially uniform force upon the seal ridge.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 37 and 63.

Kindly add claims 65 and 66.

65. A filtering face mask that comprises:

- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body, the exhalation valve

comprising:

(1) a valve seat that comprises:

- (i) a seal surface; and
- (ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface.

(2) a single flexible flap that is supported by the valve seat and that has a stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes stationary and free segments, the stationary segment of the single flexible flap's peripheral edge being associated with the stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment of the flap's peripheral edge being associated with the